

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05713 200854Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-07 INT-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /102 W

-----111701 210239Z /73

R 200518Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3847

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, AS, CH

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IRON AND STEEL MISSION TO CHINA

REF: CANBERRA 4461

1. THE AUSTRALIAN IRON AND STEEL MISSION HAS REPORTED A SUCCESSFUL THREE-WEEK VISIT TO PRC, ALTHOUGH NO PROMISES OF PURCHASES BY THE PRC HAVE BEEN MADE.

2. THE MISSION, WHICH WAS ARRANGED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AUSTRALIA/CHINA TRADE AGREEMENT, INCLUDED TEN REPRESENTATIVES OF LEADING AUSTRALIAN IRON ORE PRODUCERS AND IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURERS, PLUS AN OFFICIAL FROM THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND RESOURCES.

3. THE ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION WERE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH PRC OFFICIALS ON AUSTRALIA'S EXPERTISE IN THE IRON ORE

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PAGE 02 CANBER 05713 200854Z

MINING AND PROCESSING AREAS, AND TO LEARN MORE OF CHINA'S NEEDS FOR RAW MATERIALS. THESE OBJECTIVES WERE MET. HOWEVER, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE AUSTRALIANS WERE HOPING FOR SOME DEFINITE SIGN FROM THE CHINESE THAT THE PRC WOULD PURCHASE RAW MATERIALS FROM AUSTRALIA FOR USE IN THE NEW SHANGHAI STEEL WORKS.

4. THE MISSION SAID THAT IT BELIEVED CHINA WAS ADOPTING A POSITIVE

APPROACH IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND HAD EMBARKED ON A PROGRAM OF IMPORTING MODERN TECHNOLOGY FROM MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THERE APPEARED TO BE POTENTIAL MARKETS FOR AUSTRALIAN EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND ENGINEERING COMPANIES.

5. AN EARLY RETURN VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY CHINESE TECHNICIANS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION AND VIEW AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENTS AT FIRST HAND IS NOW BEING DISCUSSED.

ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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